

Iran North to South

Tabriz to Bandar Abbas • Touring • 23 Days

If you would like to get behind the headlines then join us as we uncover Iran's rich heritage and explore the art, culture and lifestyles of Persian society today. This journey will take you away from the standard tourist routes to explore Kurdistan, the 'Gulf' and around the south east. The itinerary also includes the key sites of cultural and historic interest and provide a chance to get to some less travelled regions in safety and comfort. The programme begins amongst the nomadic communities of the 'gulf' coast and tours extensively so as to include opportunities to meet people many ethnic and cultural backgrounds.



Iran North to South TRIP DETAILS

2010 Departures

Escorted Small group

- 01st Oct - 23rd Oct

Trip Price : NZD9595pp

Private Departures

- April
- May
- September

Trip Price : Price on application

Trip Length: 23 Days

Activity Type: Touring

WHATS INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

• ROUTE

Includes Tehran, Tabriz, Urumiyeh, Sanandaj, Hamadan, Kashan, Esfahan, Shiraz, Yazd, Bam, Kerman, Bandar Abbas.

This is an easy journey that will suit travellers interested to gain a unique cultural perspective on Iran. We travel by comfortable coach into the tribal heartland of central Iran to Bam, Kerman, Yazd, Esfahan, Shiraz and the ethnic minority regions of the North West before concluding in Bandar Abbas.

• GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. SRA leaders accompany groups of 6 or more otherwise our groups are accompanied by local English speaking professional guides.

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

• ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite) on twin share basis. Single room supplement NZ\$990

• INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.

Itinerary at a Glance :

1-Oct-10 **Arrive Tehran**

Met on arrival at airport and transfer to hotel.

2-Oct-10 **Tehran**

Full day sightseeing in and around Tehran to include Sad Abad Palace, the National Jewels Museum, the Glass museum and the National Museum of Iran.

3-Oct-10 **Fly to Tabriz drive to Kandovan**

Morning flight to Tabriz, short sightseeing in Tabriz including the Blue Mosque and the Azerbaijan Museum. Late afternoon short drive to Kandovan Village a "mini Cappadocis"

4-Oct-10 **Drive to Urumeiyh**

Morning sightseeing around Kandovan. Afternoon drive across the causeway over Urumeiyh Lake to Urumeiyh

5-Oct-10 **Urumeiyh**

City sightseeing in Urumeiyh and surrounding area.

6-Oct-10 **to Sanandaj via Takht-e Soleiman**

En route visit to Takht-e-Soleiman (UNESCO site) ancient temple and shrine dating from King Solomon's era. Sanandaj is the main city of Kurdistan and home to Kurds, Armenian, Chaldean and Jewish minorities.

7-Oct-10 **Sanandaj excursion to Howraman Valley**

Full day excursion into the spectacular mountainous tribal region of the Iraq/Iran border.



8-Oct-10 **To Hamadan**

Visits en route today include Bisotun (UNESCO site) to view the rock inscriptions, Anahita Temple dating from 200 BCE and Ester and Mordikhay Tomb, tomb of the first Jewish Queen of Iran.

9-Oct-10 **To Kashan via Qom**

A full day's drive today to Kashan. Enroute visit Iran's 2nd holiest city, home of the magnificent Hazrat-e Masumeh Shrine.

10-Oct-10 **To Esfahan**

Sightseeing in Kashan this morning before driving south to Esfahan. Enroute visit Abyaneh Village and the Jame Mosque in Natanz.

11-Oct-10 **Esfahan**

A full day sightseeing around Esfahan is planned for today – including Naghsi-I Jahan Square, Iman Mosque, Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque and the bridges of Esfahan. We will also visit Esfahan bazaar.

12-Oct-10 **Esfahan**

Sightseeing today will include the Jame Mosque, Vank Cathedral, Chehel Soutoun and Hasht Behest. Free time this afternoon to explore the bazaar around Imman Square.

13-Oct-10 **To Yazd**

This morning we set out for the drive to Yazd. We will stop in Na'in for a look at the 10th century mosque and the traditional houses which are dotted throughout the town.

14-Oct-10 **Yazd**

Sightseeing in Yazd including visit a Zoroastrian Fire Temple and Tower of Silence. This afternoon drive to Zeinodin Caravanserai – a traditional Caravanserai our accommodation for the night.

15-Oct-10 **To Shiraz via Pasargarde**

Full day's drive today to Shiraz. We have time to visit the old Caravanserai at Izadkhist and Pasargad UNESCO World Heritage Site.

16-Oct-10 **Shiraz – Persepolis**

Full day visit to the ancient ceremonial capital of the second Iranian dynasty. Archaeological evidence suggests that the earliest remains of Persepolis date from around 518 BC.

17-Oct-10 **Shiraz**

Sightseeing today will include Narenjestan (Qavam House), Nasir mosque, Vakil Mosque, Bazaar, Shahe Cheraq, Eram Garden, Sadi tomb, Karimkhan citadel.

18-Oct-10 **To Kerman**

Full day's drive to Kerman

19-Oct-10 **To Bam**

Visit the old town of Kerman, including a visit to the bazaar and traditional tea house. Late morning drive to Bam via Mahan. In Mahan visit to the Dervish Shrine (Shah Nematollah Shrine) and the Prince (Shazdel) Garden.

20-Oct-10 **To Minab**

This morning visit the Arg Fortress in Bam before driving across the Halil Rud plain to Jiroft and Minab.

21-Oct-10 **To Bandar Abbas**

Leisurely morning visit Minab bazaar and surrounding area. Late afternoon drive to Bandar Abbas.

22-Oct-10 **Excursion to Qeshm Island**

This morning we depart by local speedboat to Qeshm Island (30-45min) Visit Laft fishing village and boat building workshop. Return to Bandar Abbas for late afternoon sightseeing.

23-Oct-10 **Bandar Abbas** and conclude